



MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD

MISSION

INTEGRATION

SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

October 2021



# MISSION: MILESTONES

From new roofs to new offices,  
multiple projects wrapped up in FY21.

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*\*Some photos in this issue were taken prior to re-instatement of COVID-19 safety protocols.*

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



I'm not very active on social media, but I did see something recently I wanted to reiterate, along the lines of "everyone is going through something right now, so it's important to be kind." The last 20+ months have challenged us in numerous ways and have been a series of ups and downs. One of the best things we can do is demonstrate kindness, grace and understanding to one another. No matter the topic, we won't always find agreement, but we can do our best to recognize the perspectives and choices of others and treat everyone with respect.

As a leadership team, we empathize with the emotions and stress levels many are experiencing right now. If you need extra help or someone to talk to, I urge you to utilize resources (including those at HPMC or through your health insurance provider) or reach out to someone you trust. My heart is with those grieving someone dear to them and for the colleagues we've all recently lost. My heart is with those who must make tough choices, both personally and professionally. My heart is with those who continue to struggle, no matter the reason.

We have overcome so much together and I'm confident we will continue to do so. I won't promise it will be easy, because not everything is. Stay strong and stay safe.

Bob

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RECOGNITION



President's Lifesaving Award

Abel Cortina and his wife drove by a home and weren't sure if they were witnessing a tossed aside mannequin or a person in need. They turned the car around and realized it was an elderly man who had fallen down the stairs. The man had hit his head and been lying there a long time. He did not speak English and had no means of calling for help. Abel stayed with him, speaking to him in Spanish and providing aid until first responders could arrive. Abel represents our Safeguards, Security and Emergency Response team well! Thank you for staying aware and stepping up to help – it likely saved the man's life!

HFD Live Fire Training at HAMMER

Our Hanford firefighters keep their skills fresh by testing emergency response and how to utilize new gear. The team recently trained on the Flammable Liquids Pad at the HAMMER Federal Training Facility, utilizing an environmentally friendly firefighting foam. The exercise simulates a fluid spill using liquid propane. "Firefighters had the opportunity to train on a Vindicator nozzle which aerates the foam using higher pressure, yet less pushback on the firefighters holding the hose," said HFD chief Todd Roper. HFD conducts a live fire training at least once a year.





## ONE HANFORD MISSION

### Water Treatment Facility Groundbreaking

*Contributor: Robin Wojtanik*

A formal groundbreaking with Hanford leadership set the stage for construction of the Central Plateau Water Treatment Facility. Teams from Engineering, Technology & Projects, Business Integration & Operations, and Infrastructure & Site Services collaborated on the launch of this project, and now work has begun by subcontractor Fowler General Construction – but not before the golden shovels could turn some dirt!

HMIS president Bob Wilkinson welcomed Hanford Site manager Brian Vance and the leaders of Bechtel, CPCCo, and WRPS to kick off the project in the 200 West Area, near the 1940s era water treatment plant it will replace. “Finally being able to break ground on something that’s really going to transform Hanford into the next phase of operations, and carry us to the end of the mission, makes for exciting times,” said Wilkinson.

Once operational, the 10,000-square-foot facility will support water needs of Central Plateau operations, including the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste program. DFLAW will increase the demand for a reliable water supply, and the CPWTF will provide a minimum of 3.5 million gallons of water a day.

“Well beyond the start of DFLAW and the transition to 24/7 operations, we’re looking at the next several decades of cleanup,



From left, Chris Ells, Brad Pratt, Eric Patrick, Randy Adkins, Bob Wilkinson, Diane Cato and Todd Synoground on the construction site in the 200 West Area.



HMIS president Bob Wilkinson took part in the groundbreaking for the Central Plateau Water Treatment Facility.

and this water facility will provide services to the entire site for that period of time,” said Vance.

In addition to the increased capacity, the facility employs an innovative hollow fiber microfiltration method. This marks a huge safety milestone, eliminating the need for chlorine gas on the Hanford Site. Chlorine gas is currently used only at the 283W Water Treatment Plant,

which the new facility will replace. Completion of the facility is expected in 2023.

## ONE HANFORD MISSION

### Solar, Wind Tech to Arrive on Gable East

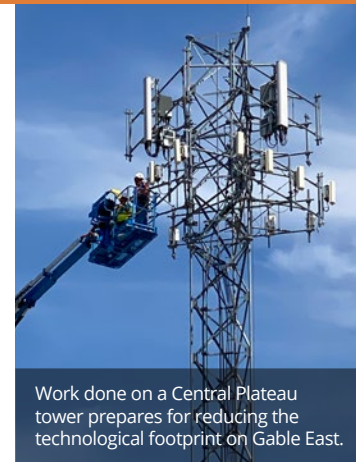
*Contributor: Robin Wojtanik*

Progress continues on the east plateau of Gable Mountain, consolidating infrastructure and reducing the technology footprint. Information Management Services recently undertook several projects, including implementing a wind sensor for the Hanford Meteorological Station. The station now has a WindCube, which uses small pulses of light to sample density changes, offering more accurate data on wind speed and direction at varying elevations.

“The WindCube will provide wind information at elevations we never before had available to us,” said Grant Gutierrez, HMIS meteorologist. “This helps our ability to aid the Emergency Operations Center, as well as our ability to detect things like the thickness of inversions, making it easier to better forecast when those long stretches of gloomy overcast days will end during the winter.”

The team also removed what’s obsolete – including legacy WiMAX and paging systems and a GPS receiver. IMS also began readying systems to move off Gable Mountain, prepping a tower for technology relocations and migrating commercial radio systems to the Central Plateau. Seismic systems will also be consolidated to a single location on Gable Mountain.

These updates contribute to an expected overall reduction of power use by some 70%. Additionally, two mobile units affixed with



Work done on a Central Plateau tower prepares for reducing the technological footprint on Gable East.



Members of the IMS team make plans to install a WindCube on the Hanford Site, providing more accurate weather data at varying elevations.

solar panels will harness energy from the sun as part of a project planned for the end of the year.

“One trailer will have a battery for energy storage and a small, backup propane-powered generator to get us through the times we do not get enough sun,” said Lynn Ver Steeg, IM facility manager. “This control trailer will manage all input from the solar arrays, charge the batteries, and invert DC voltage created by the solar system into AC power for the building.”

IMS continues to actively improve technology on the Hanford Site – updating systems, removing outdated ones, and shifting remaining infrastructure to the Central Plateau.



## ONE HANFORD MISSION



The team responsible for the recent re-tension project on the met tower. From left, C&R members John Alley, Dustan Hemperly, Ken Strong, Vic Webley, Mike Pomrankey, and Scott Calhoun, plus engineers Dharmendra Rana and Norma Aguilera-Vazquez.

### Crane & Rigging, Engineering Team on Tower Work

*Contributors: Robin Wojtanik*

The tallest structure on the Hanford Site requires regular maintenance to stay useful! The guy wires need adjusting to stay taut and connect from the base to different levels of the 405-foot meteorological tower. The tower is anticipated to be used long term by Meteorological and Climatological Services and Information Management Services. To meet this need, teams from Crane & Rigging worked to increase the tension using varying methods, including custom-designed tools.

One process utilized the help of civil and structural engineers Dharmendra Rana and Norma Aguilera-Vazquez, who calculated the guy wire tension by timing the waves traveling up and down

each cable. Another method used a device fabricated by C&R specifically to adjust the guy wires. By placing this device near the guy wires, the team could gradually apply pressure to slowly expose new threads.

It doesn't sound simple – because it's not! To complicate matters, the threads on the wires are susceptible to corrosion or dust from exposure to the elements, which can prevent nuts from being easily tightened. C&R cleaned the threads and added

custom-fabricated shims if the nuts wouldn't tighten, all while Engineering took measurements and collected data to measure tension on the guy wire.

At the end of the process, engineers determined the final tension to be a few degrees greater than where it started, and within acceptable limits, resulting in a "great improvement to our baseline," said Norma Aguilera-Vazquez, civil engineer.



Crane & Rigging team member Vic Webley uses a tool fabricated for the re-tension work.



A collaborative partnership between DOE, Hanford contractors, HAWTC, and the Central WA Building & Construction Trades Council, the HWECC can be visited weekdays 6 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. at 309 Bradley Blvd., Suite 120 in Richland. [hanford.gov/hwec](http://hanford.gov/hwec) or 509-376-HWECC.

The HWECC team has supported Hanford workers and their families since 2018. From left, Calin Tebay, Josh Artzer, Jason Sprowl and Amanda Adams.

## MISSION: MILESTONES

### Team Engages with Workers, Families in Need

*Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg*

The team at the Hanford Workforce Engagement Center recently passed the 10,000 mark for the number of interactions with current and former Hanford workers, or their families, seeking guidance on filing occupational illness or injury claims. As of this month, the HWECC team recorded 11,341 interactions since opening in April 2018, including scheduled appointments, walk-ins, telephone and e-mail consults or outreach activities.

The only center of its kind across the DOE complex, it is operated by HMIS with subcontractor workforce specialists Josh Artzer (WRPS), Jason Sprowl (Iron Mountain) and Calin Tebay (Tradewind), and administrative assistant Amanda Adams. The HWECC assists current and former workers, or their surviving family, through the state and federal claims process.

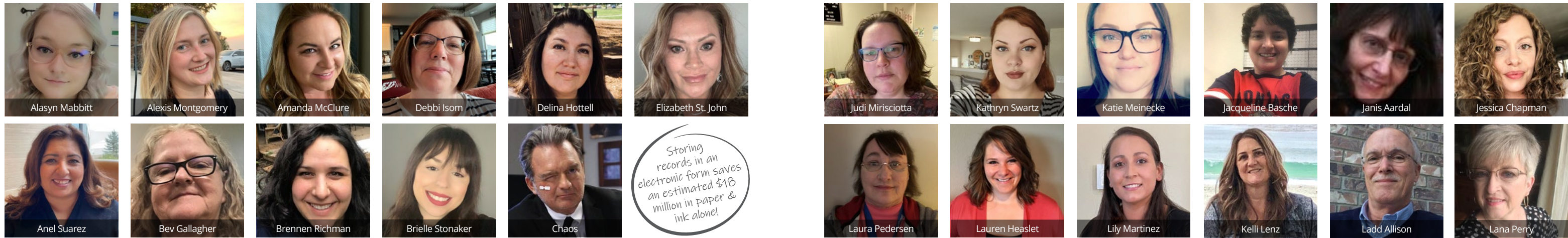
"DOE wanted to provide focused support, as many programs may be complicated to navigate," said Ashley Morris, DOE deputy

assistant manager for Business and Financial Operations. "The trained HWECC staffers are a valuable resource to the Hanford community and dedicated to connecting workers with the right organization to meet their needs."

The pandemic created new challenges for the HWECC team, who initially continued operating the center remotely. "You're often dealing with mountains of paperwork," said Sprowl. "Now, doing that over the phone made it harder to get to the meat of where you needed to look in the papers." Not to be deterred, the team would sometimes go to the claimant to be sure they got assistance. This kind of 'above and beyond' attitude resulted in many instances where a claimant had their claim initially denied, but with guidance from the HWECC team, managed to get it reopened and subsequently approved.

"We continue to grow our knowledge every day and increase our education on programs or how programs conflict," said Tebay. "We haven't started a center and stuck there; we've grown, as needed, for those who use it."





# MISSION: MILESTONES

## Bonus Year for Records Management in 2021

*Contributor: Marlene Oaks*

The pandemic has not dampened the spirits of the Records Management team, who celebrated adding 7 million electronic records to the Integrated Document Management System in FY21. The total number of IDMS electronic records now exceeds 41 million! This significant milestone was fueled by automated interfaces capturing electronic records from various sources.

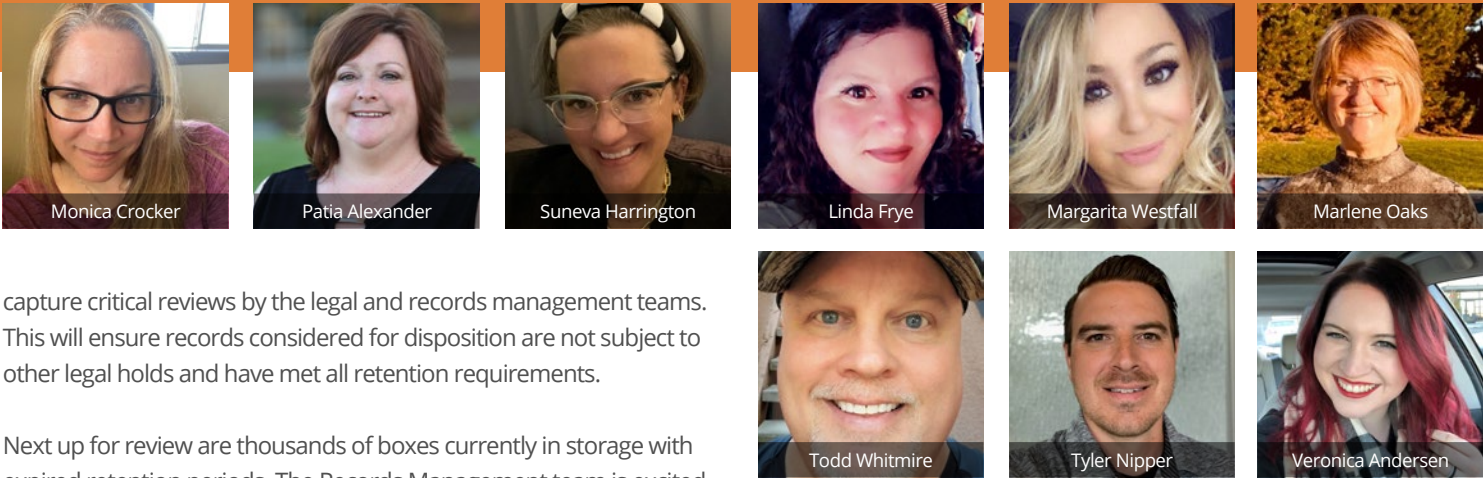
Capturing electronic records is more important than ever as the Hanford Site records program responds to the National Archives

and Records Administration. All federal agencies must implement fully electronic record keeping by the end of 2022. Thanks to robust practices already implemented at Hanford, a full transition to electronic records is well underway.

Along with capturing, each record must be managed and eventually destroyed, completing a full life cycle. This year, a second significant milestone marked a return to routine records disposition after a legal moratorium had tied up some of this. The Hanford Site records management and legal community collaborated to define the process for the program.

The comprehensive records disposition program will be implemented in the current fiscal year, showcasing an automated workflow to

*(Cont'd)*



capture critical reviews by the legal and records management teams. This will ensure records considered for disposition are not subject to other legal holds and have met all retention requirements.

Next up for review are thousands of boxes currently in storage with expired retention periods. The Records Management team is excited the return to routine records disposition indicates a full life cycle approach for managing Hanford records.



Subcontractor Titan Electric performs infrastructure upgrades at the south end of ERDF Road for project L-789, providing critical long-term power for the DFLAW program and the site.



Finishing touches are applied to one of eleven buildings that received a new roof through project L-796.



HMS Electrical Utilities performs an electrical safety test on the primary conductors for new mobile office trailers installed in the 200 East Area for project L-934.



Subcontractor DGR Grant Construction places a booster pump vault for project L-853.

## MISSION: MILESTONES

### Projects Bring Safety, Modernization to Hanford

*Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg*

The Engineering, Technology & Projects organization saw multiple projects come to fruition in FY21, enabling the continued safe and effective Hanford cleanup mission.

Infrastructure replacement for electrical distribution lines past their life expectancy will ensure power to the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste program and support facilities well into the future, thanks to completion of the **Transmission & Distribution System Wood Power Poles Testing & Replacement Project L-789**. Having uninterrupted power for waste vitrification is critical to DFLAW.

Eleven facilities across the Hanford Site with roofs that had reached or exceeded their expected design life received replacements through the **Key Facilities Roof Replacements Project L-796**.

Sanitary sewage collected from various on-site septic systems through the **200E Sewer Consolidation Project L-854** is transported nearly 4 miles to the 200 West Treatment Lagoons, with completion of the **200E Sewer Flow Equalization Facility Project L-853**, reducing the septic system footprint on site.

(Cont'd)

The high-tech **Fire Alarm Report System and Radio Fire Alarm Reporter Replacement and Upgrade Project L-905** was a testbed for new technologies and provides a blueprint for the future of Hanford Site fire and radio response equipment. Three facilities with outdated systems were upgraded. Tested by the Hanford Fire Marshal, this project became the basis for large planning efforts to bring the entire site up to long-term modern and safe operation and service.

Installation of a new telecommunication building for **Project L-921** is part of a multi-faceted emergency services infrastructure upgrade, bringing the new Emergency Services Local Area Network one step closer to dramatically decreasing response time for emergency situations and increasing capacities of all emergency services personnel.

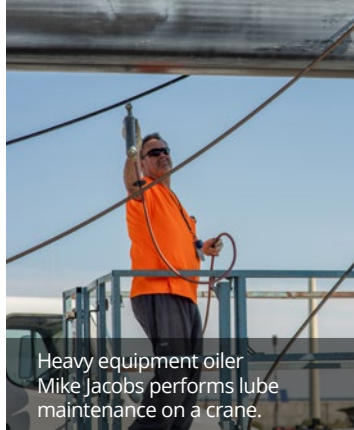
Mobile office trailers procured and installed in the **200 East Area for the Installation of Mobile Office Trailers and Office Space Gap Reduction Projects L-933 & L-934** helped relieve the shortage of office/craft space, while also meeting the requirement of proper social distancing during the ongoing pandemic.

Congratulations to all teams involved in bringing these projects to completion!





Light equipment mechanic David Dean checks the cable on a truck used to tow vehicles when needed.



Heavy equipment oiler Mike Jacobs performs lube maintenance on a crane.



Light equipment mechanic JJ Wright performs maintenance on a fire truck ladder.

## MISSION: MILESTONES

### Team Focus: Fleet Maintenance Keeps the Site Rolling

*Contributor: Cerise Peck*

Fleet Maintenance services government vehicles across the Hanford Site, showcasing our role as integrator. Led by director David Baie, the team kept the mission moving forward even with the challenges of 2021. "This team has done an outstanding job staying positive and consistent with the goals we set this year," said Baie. "Providing quality service allows other employees to work safely and efficiently. I am proud of their ability to achieve this level of service."

Being a team other teams rely on is a large task. Fleet Maintenance shared some of their accomplishments this past year, and they were busy! They kept mobile cranes at an in-service rate of 96% and responded to more than 600 calls to jump start a vehicle. Keeping our first responders ready, Fleet Maintenance outfitted

eleven emergency services vehicles with specialty equipment and maintained Hanford Fire equipment at an in-service rate of 95%.

It doesn't end there! Fleet Maintenance performed nearly 300 Department of Transportation inspections on commercial vehicles and trailers, and completed roughly 4,000 orders for preventive maintenance, annual inspections, and lube services.

"Everyone knows we are the one to call for a fleet issue, and that certainly is the case. But it's the work done between those calls that keeps Hanford moving forward, saving time, and focusing on safety," said Rick Thompson, Fleet Services manager.

We appreciate this team keeping us rolling year-round and their contributions to the One Hanford Mission.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Caring for the Community

As a longtime supporter and current board president for Safe Harbor Support Center, Diane Cato, vice president of Engineering, Technology & Projects, wanted to help her colleagues see the beneficial work this organization does in our community. After a brief tour of My Friend's Place, a teen shelter operated by Safe Harbor, HMIS proudly made a \$5,000 donation to the organization as a sponsor of the organization's upcoming fundraiser, Beggar's Banquet.



Staff with Safe Harbor Support Center accept a \$5,000 donation from HMIS leadership.



My Friend's Place is a shelter for teens without homes, offering a safe place to sleep, meals, clothing, showers, laundry facilities, hygiene products, support services and individualized case management services.

